

Break

ILEA high spot

One of the occasional perks of teaching in London, at least if you're in charge of a hostel bedroom or a housemaster's office that needs special furnishing, is a visit to the Greater London Council's supplies depot at Tottenham Hale. The name probably conjures up depressing racks of exercise books, blotting paper, and rulers, with standard-issue chairs and tables to match. In fact, Tottenham Hale supplies furniture and furnishings to very high design standards, and with a beautifully human and efficient customer service.

With the pressure of the first week of the holidays off, I was able to get there to sort out the choice of curtain material for our new careers centre. I shouldn't normally have this pleasure myself, but problems had arisen. Our school's careers adviser was on holiday, and if the curtains were to be hanging by the new school year, a decision had to be made. Anyway, placing the order was of great symbolic importance to me. It was to be the last step in a four-year struggle to build the centre.

When I was anxious to increase the school's focus on preparation for work, we appointed a careers adviser with extensive knowledge and experience. That was splendid—except that there was nowhere for her base other than an awkwardly placed medical room—when the doctor wasn't in!

We had foreseen this, and at a time of re-planning the use of rooms throughout the school we had decided to build a modest extension in the central courtyard, with an entrance from the main foyer. Brilliantly designed as a gift to the school by Nicholas Ray, now at Cambridge University school of architecture, the drawings showed an ingenious and stylish tent of glass, stretched under an overhanging first-floor projection, graceful and practical.

We launched an appeal, but what a time to do it! It coincided with the steep rise in building costs and the economic crisis, which froze likely funds. As fast as we raised money, the estimates went up. At one point, we had a doorway and dwarf walls, and we stuck there for 18 months—a depressing monument to my optimism.

Now, however, four years and £3,000 later, the last ceiling plank and window frame have been fitted. We have a pleasant interview room, and an inviting waiting room, ready for the displays and books. Thanks to the generosity of a number of publishers, who helped us when all else seemed hopeless, we have nearly enough money to pay the bill—only £750 short.

The inner London Education Authority, with typical generosity, agreed to furnish at their expense, and our equipment officer has given great care to the details. Only the curtains remain a problem. The full-height windows need curtains that will keep out direct sunlight, will look pleasant from outside as well as in, will sufficiently dim-out for a day-light screen, and will go well with the natural brick and timber materials.

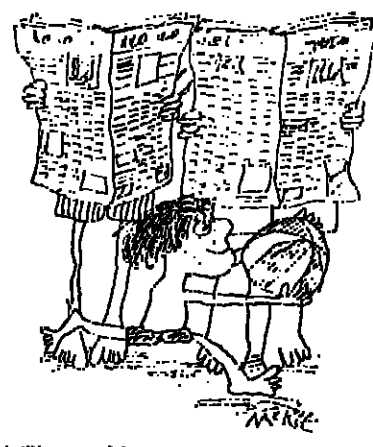
At supplies I found stand after stand of fine materials, a range that would do justice to Her Majesty's service every bit as good. With bulk ordering, careful quality checks, and superb efficiency, the organization is able to bring good design and high quality to ILEA schools.

The size of the operation can be gauged by the fact that 140,000 chairs and tables are ordered by supplies every year, half of them for the ILEA, the other for parts of outer London who also use the depot. Indeed ILEA alone spends about £5.5m a year on furniture and equipment. My only difficulty was finally to decide between half a dozen suitable materials. I was delighted to have been able to settle the last detail of the new careers centre so pleasantly.

Interviewer's art

At last I can get away to Suffolk, where I like to spend as much of the summer holidays as possible. I arrive with my usual pile of paper to be dealt with, and am made to feel still further behind as the harvest is nearly over—the earliest in memory, according to my farmer neighbour.

Among the chores left over from term are some interview notes of pupils seen in the last week, still to be written up. I am gradually learning that half the art of interviewing is to be able to get the key points down during the inter-



"The trouble with the falling pound is that even the children holiday in England."

view, and to write up the notes coherently soon afterwards. I find this difficult. The longer you leave the writing up, the harder it is—and to mention the difficulties caused to colleagues or the Education Welfare Service, who might well need the notes to hand immediately. My annual new school year's resolution is to write up every interview before I go home at night.

I remark that resolution as I look at the forlorn jottings of a particularly upsetting interview with a mother and her 14-year-old daughter. "M is in despair," my notes start. The awful fraught interview floods back into my memory: the girl appalled that she had run through the patience of tutor, house staff, head of lower school, and eventually me; her mother reeling with impatient anger and misery at her inability either to understand her daughter or to control her.

I remembered why I had not written up the interview at the time: instead I had sent an urgent letter to the welfare service to sound a warning. What more should I have done, I wondered, as I reread the mother's threats. "I cry; I talk; I hit! There is nothing more I can do except strangle her, and that means I'll go to prison. . . . It's only four years since I buried her dad, and I'm up to here in worries. I'll die, and happy to do so."

Sitting in garden looking out over the wide expanse of silky yellow stubble, is a pleasant way of getting through the papers. It is a curious setting, though, in which to read the education officer's report to ILEA on the year's work on "An Education Service for the Whole Community" set out by Dr Brailmont's plan—first outlined in a booklet sent to every London teacher in 1973—to foster links between the education service and the community, and between various parts of services. These are pretty difficult aims in the com-

plex, overlapping London provision, where looking for the "community" is very different from here in Suffolk.

Dr Brailmont's report ends with cautious optimism: "In unpretentious and valuable ways, the inner London Education Service is playing a wider role within the community and reaching out to the people who would hitherto have remained outside its provision." A special fund has been available to finance projects likely to help this involvement.

For the east, I calculate, of about 10 teachers, grants have been made for schemes as varied as a parents' and children's workshop in Battersea, a telephone referral system in Bellingham for adult illiterates, an exhibition in a display and information centre in the education offices in Islington, and many primary schools.

As he comes to the end of his work in London—Dr Brailmont retires at Christmas—this modest but steady work must be encouraging to him. Indeed he recently said: "I don't think the education service will ever be the same again since the development of community involvement. . . . I consider this to have been one of the most important developments during my time as education officer—and one which has given me much satisfaction."

Those of us who have spent most of our professional careers in the London service have an affection and respect for the work he has done, indeed a pride that he has been our Education Officer. I remember his courtesy and interest when I was a head of department. I have admired his masterly exposition of complex problems of figures, organization, and finance to meetings; his skilled chairmanship of committees.

His leadership will be remembered also for the brilliant conception and execution of the "alternative uses of resources" scheme, one which shows the educational importance of administrative imagination. Above all, he has been continually impressed by his constant and firm concern for the whole range of people in education. It is good to hear that when he leaves he will be a visiting professor at Sussex University as well as spending a term as visiting professor at Otago University in New Zealand.

Catching up

This is also "journal catching-up time." I have just finished the NFER's *Educational Research* for June. As the data for various of the papers in it were collected in 1975, 1976, and in one case 1972, I didn't feel that my two months' delay in reading it was too serious. In the last few years this journal has become essential reading for

headteachers, with the articles focusing effectively on the practical ends of research. Admittedly the piece on "secondary school pupils' educational research" is almost purely of educational research with no formula laboriously applied to schools with points tend to be more total time to swimming and a larger part of their PE programme than schools without pools."

I was specially interested in Douglas Pidgeon's survey of "Logical Steps in the Process of Learning to Read." Not only does he carefully analyse the relationship between so-called "sight words" and phonetic association, but he gives a long way to explaining the needs in the early stages of learning to read of children from lower socio-economic backgrounds—one of the big problems of today. I also liked his final emphasis:

"Regrettably, all too often reading instruction stops once the child is able to read with reasonable fluency and comprehension. He might be said, however, that reading literacy begins only when skills to read have been mastered." Two points together, indeed, are the challenge to the secondary school.

Sound sense

Rural Suffolk does have some of those that are relevant, but to work out of teenagers has been a constant preoccupation of farmers over the years. The researches do not have the statistical sophistication of the education specialist, but they have some sense all the same.

Talking of the behaviour and aptitude of boys at work, they say, "On a boy: a boy; two boys in a field; an' three boys in a no boy all." Perhaps the NFER could do a study of statistical significance of those figures.

Michael Marland, head of Woodberry Down School, North London, is standing in for Aristides, who is on holiday.

Next week

Keith Wheeler on environmental education.

Tim Albert and Mark Edwards on a London school report to parents.

Books: Margaret Drabble reviews a new novel about teenage sex written for teenagers; Martin Page on a new book of Lord Melbourne; Keith Harling on the English Civil War; David Bridges on in-service education; textbooks for technical subjects.

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Tameside now over selection methods

by Stephen Cohen

Letters went out this week to 50 of the district's 800 grammar school pupils picked out by the selection panel.

For 50 of the district's 800 grammar school pupils picked out by the selection panel, the week of the selection panel's decision was a time of great excitement.

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Name game: the "grammar" goes back into Tameside's schools ready for the start of term. The new grammar school sign is bright blue.

of the assessors had less than four years' teaching experience, he said. One had been teaching for less than two years and not one was from a secondary school. "It alarms me to see such a selection of teachers on a selection panel," Mr Oldham is also complaining to the local government ombudsman that the selection was maladministered.

Except for dealing with the 50 pupils with blank or inadequate records cards, Mr Eric Beard, the retired head who led the selection panel, and his team of volunteers have now finished the bulk of their work. They judged only 192 of the pupils good enough to go to grammar school, although 240 places were available.

Decisions on 19 children were waiting for more information than their record cards contained. They were put on one side after being considered three times, Mr Beard said.

This left 32 children in a state of limbo with blank records cards, nearly all of them from one school, Flowery Field Junior School in Hyde.

Mr Charles Tweedle, deputy director of education, said a decision would not be taken on them until the start of term. It would not be possible to contact schools

and head teachers before then. Mr Donald Thorpe, Conservative chairman of the education committee, said that record cards had been collected from some schools by two councillors. They had picked up a packet of cards from one school without examining them. On delivery to Mr Beard it had emerged that they were blank. Mr Thorpe said that the cards were new ones, and information from old cards had not been transferred to them.

But the discovery of the blank record cards shocked some parents and teachers. Mrs Betty Hales, one of the parents' leaders, said the selection system was a farce. "Some of the cards have not been filled in since the children were seven. How can we accept that this is a fair method?"

Mr Gordon Powell, secretary of the Tameside branch of the NUT, said the teachers had been proved right when they claimed that adequate selection could not be achieved.

In his affidavit to the High Court Mr Beard said that a "fair, feasible and practicable" selection could comfortably be made within one week.

Mr Tom Pendry, Labour MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, said the judges could not be blamed for

accepting Mr Beard's affidavit but he said: "We can manifestly prove now that it was a nonsense claim." But Mr Beard said: "We have done a damn good job." Every record card of every child leaving junior school in the borough had been looked at. He had removed the poor weak and average children and left the good and excellent to be considered by the panel.

Pairs of teachers then looked at the reading ages, head teachers comments and assessments which were on a five point scale. "They worked downwards and removed the excellent ones, the good, the excellent and the good, which were all looked at again by a bigger group of four or more."

Letters will be going this week to parents who applied for grammar school places informing them of the panel's decision. Appeals will be heard later this month.

Mr Beard said he had not expected to select exactly 240 children but those chosen represented about a quarter of the 800 applications and this was in line with previous practice. Mr Thorpe, the education committee chairman, said he was "relieved and gratified" that the process had almost come to an end.

How to keep lecturers in jobs

An ambitious scheme of induction and in-service training to provide jobs for 1,200 redundant college of education lecturers is urged on the Government.

Brother, can you spare a dime?

English teachers on a year's exchange in America received hundreds of pounds less than they had expected. The Americans here received hundreds of pounds more. Can the exchange scheme survive?

Almost free

Tim Albert and Mark Edwards on a small south London school set up by parents who "didn't want to hand over responsibility to the experts."

Books, pages 13-15 Margaret Drabble on teenage sex; Jill Turner on Bertrand Russell; modern languages, education, history, children's literature, technical textbooks.

Features, page 9 Keith Wheeler on some international initiatives in environmental education. Resources, page 16 Colin Evans on music materials; Peter Barker on computer assisted learning; Barbara Rigby on recorded children's stories.

Arts Reviews, pages 26, 27 K. R. Stott and L. M. Cannon on shared sixth forms; Joan Forster on preserving a Swiss minority language.

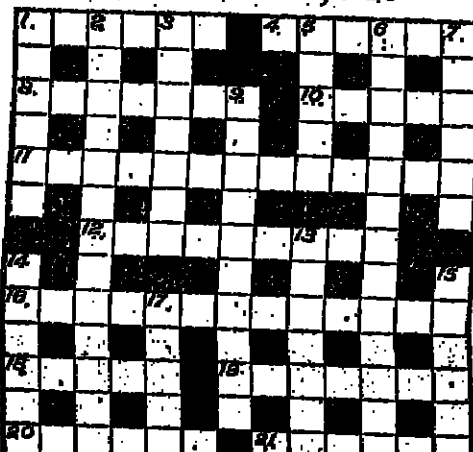
Arts Reviews, pages 26, 27 K. R. Stott and L. M. Cannon on shared sixth forms; Joan Forster on preserving a Swiss minority language. Christopher Griffin, Beale on television; Heather Nelli on theatre; Araminta Wordsworth on cinema.

Leaders, letters, page 21: Sport, in brief, People, page 81: Break crossword, puzzles, teasers, page 28.

Classified ad index

TES Index The TES Index for January-June is on four centre pages.

Crossword No 1,046



Across
1 Just right for metal workers strike (5)
4 Detective who solved the Christie murders (6)
8 Superlative finish for a joint (4, 3)
10 "My cousins are red with the lightning. They—in the fresh sunbeam" (Shelley) (5)
12 Villain in a red suit (5, 2, 6)

Down

1 "Open—is better than secret love" (Perverse) (6)
2 A run-down account of the subject (13)
3 Stuff for a gourmand (7)
5 In France this game would be shady (5)
6 Going purchases that include half-backs (5, 7)
7 Give me this as a belief (6)
9 Paradoxically their most successful method is attack (5)
13 Word on put many out (7)
14 Old-fashioned barrow boy (6)
15 "Good take-off usually enables one to do this" (6)
17 Trout by coach (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 1,045
18 A matter of taking the 12 in (5)
19 Customary state of mind of the finish-hat correspondent (7)
20 Revolutionary organization? Yet most respectable (6)
21 State of the entertained (6)

Chess

WEAKNESS ON THE WHITE SQUARES

One of the most attractive methods of winning a game lies in the thematic exploitation of a weakness on the white squares. Why this should be so is, I think, because in order to carry out such an exploitation one is forced to create a plan that works harmoniously from beginning to end.

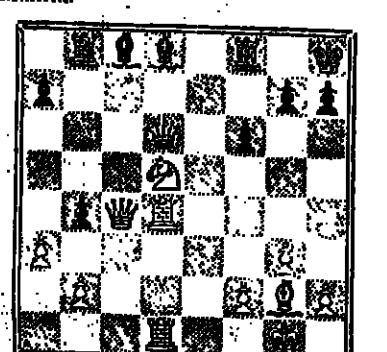
There are quite a number of openings that are largely concerned with this struggle for the white squares, both on the King-side (the King's Pawn Game, and on the Queen-side where two of the more sophisticated types of opening come to mind, the Catalan System and the English Opening.

Of these two perhaps the English is the easier to handle. It is clearer in its line of strategy, chiefly because the Catalan is really a blend of two openings, the Queen's Gambit and the English Opening, and hence is inclined to be confusing to the less advanced player.

In the English, on the other hand, the process is logically straightforward. The very first move is an assault on the white square of the centre Opening, and this is followed by the long diagonal of white squares. Eventually, too, all the major pieces, the Queen and Rooks, are brought into the battle for the White squares.

A really marvellous example is the following fine game from the

recent interzonal tournament at Manila.



Position after Black's 21st move

White: W. Uhlmann. Black: S. Maróti.

English Opening
1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. Bc4 Bc5
4. d3 d6
5. c3 g6
6. Bg5 h6
7. Bxf6 Bxf6
8. Qd2 Qd7
9. Nbd2 Nf6
10. Bxf6 Bxf6
11. e5 dxe5
12. f4 exf4
13. g4 Qd6
14. h4 Qe7
15. Nf3 Nf6
16. Bg5 h6
17. Bxf6 Bxf6
18. Qd2 Qd7
19. Nbd2 Nf6
20. Bg5 h6
21. Bxf6 Bxf6
22. Qd2 Qd7
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25. Bxf6 Bxf6
26. Qd2 Qd7
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34. Qd2 Qd7
35. Nbd2 Nf6
36. Bg5 h6
37. Bxf6 Bxf6
38. Qd2 Qd7
39. Nf3 Nf6
40. Bg5 h6
41. Bxf6 Bxf6
42. Qd2 Qd7
43. Nbd2 Nf6
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371. Nbd2 Nf6
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373. Bxf6 Bxf6
374. Qd2 Qd7
375. Nf3 Nf6
376. Bg5 h6
377. Bxf6 Bxf6
378. Qd2 Qd7
379. Nbd2 Nf6
380. Bg5 h6
381. Bxf6 Bxf6
382. Qd2 Qd7
383. Nf3 Nf6
384. Bg5 h6
385. Bxf6 Bxf6
386. Qd2 Qd7
387. Nbd2 Nf6
388. Bg5 h6
389. Bxf6 Bxf6
390. Qd2 Qd7
391. Nf3 Nf6
392. Bg5 h6
393



Rough and unready

Latest news from Tameside is of trouble with the rough and ready selection methods to find pupils for the revamped grammar schools. A deficiency in primary school record-keeping has meant that the procedure confidently described to the Court of Appeal to justify Tameside's claim to reasonableness will not now be possible for at least one group of potential candidates.

All this is going to keep the pot boiling at Tameside, and support the view already widely held among Mr Mulley's political supporters that the Court of Appeal was out of its depth in judging the quality of some of the evidence put before it.

In part this turns, once again, on what the court was considering. Was it concerned with the merit of the actual scheme put forward by Tameside, described in its affidavit by Mr Eric Beard, the ex-head teacher who has presided over the selection panel? Or was it concerned with something much more limited—whether Tameside could show that their proposed plans, good or bad, were still within the range of actions which reasonable people might take? Nobody can

say what the Court of Appeal would have done had it been able to foresee the present mix-up, but it certainly seems as if, to be reasonable in its eyes, an authority would have had to behave in a very curious manner indeed.

All this, of course, makes life difficult for the DES legal advisers who have had to bear more than their share of criticism. Some of it (in these columns) has been less than fair. It ought not to be suggested that they were naive, or failed to recognize the growing uncertainty of Section 68 which, in the event, only the courts could interpret with authority.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch the local actions continue. What happens next depends in large measure on how the teachers react. A dispute still exists between the NUT, the NAS, and the NAHT and the Tameside authority. Sorting out the selection mess is going to depend on some cooperation between the teachers and the local authority. The revelation about the primary school records will not add to public confidence in the teachers; it may make it difficult for Tameside to do what they told the Court of Appeal they would do, but it doesn't exonerate the teachers' claim to be everybody's uncle.

Match of the day

The start of the Football League season is the signal for school groundsmen to drag the whitewash out from behind the mower and get the pitches marked out for the schools soccer season. Regrettably, these two widely different levels of the game are getting more alike in character.

By the time they take the field themselves boys will have seen at least some of their heroes in tipp-ups and punch-ups with each other and in arguments with the referee. And they will have seen their heroes losing "a venom that makes you wonder if they love playing."

The explanation for this behaviour offered by their apologists is usually that "the pressures on them are so great." To win, presumably. It is so, why is there an increasing tendency among schoolmasters to set up similar competitive structures for boys of even junior school age?

Inter-city, inter-district, inter-county, international... grown men spending hours arguing over which top-year-old will make the best striker in the town's representative side. Interest is moved away from the game itself to the league championship or knock-out cup it is being played for. And there is a tendency to make less provision for

the not so clever players who may still enjoy the game. Placed in such invidious situations as their heroes in the world outside and in the school itself, a strong pressure which is difficult to resist.

If schoolmasters are to be the formative influences they provide themselves on being, they should evolve a policy now which would involve discouraging the artificers of competition which currently encompass the game; teaching that although the referee may not be infallible it is how he should be regarded; teaching the rules of the game, as allowing young players to pick them up, often erroneously, and emphasizing that one of the offences a player may be guilty of is "ungentlemanly conduct" with useful discussions on what "gentlemanly conduct" is.

Inverted snobbery has, somehow, equated gentlemanly conduct with upper class attitudes, just as "being a good loser" has come to attract the same contempt as any attacks to the act of losing. Baron de Coubertin rekindled the Olympic torch in the spirit that the important thing was not to win, but to take part. Two sports masters have forgotten this, or perhaps they never subscribed to it.

Sir—The Taylor committee seems to be proposing a system less equitable than the present one ("Taylor", July 30). In my opinion the most serious points that have been missed are that all school governors should, in some way, be answerable to the community and that teaching should be regarded as a profession.

I think it is very inappropriate to give parents seats on a governing board and a desire to do so implies muddled though well-intentioned thinking. The parents are receiving a service and are entitled to one of high quality. It is not reasonable to expect them to help administer the school any more than it is reasonable to expect a patient to help with the management of a hospital.

The parent-teacher associations already provide consultative bodies, bringing the parents into close liaison with the schools and supplying them with a means of voicing their opinions. The ancillary staff have no direct responsibility for

education and I fail to understand why they should be represented in this way.

The teacher-governors do not represent the community directly, though they certainly serve it and enhance the contribution that they make. Moreover, they are answerable to their employers who in turn are answerable to the electorate.

Bearing in mind these difficulties and in the interests of democracy, it would seem to be common sense to draw the governors from the local parties represented in the local government and from the teaching staff of the school. I would suggest that the two groups be given equal representation on the school board, the seats for the



Maths: a place at the core

Margaret Brown and John Hersee

It is difficult not to agree in principle with the proposal for a common exam system at 16-plus and applaud the aims. Maths shares with English a central position in the curriculum. It is traditional for all pupils to study it and there are obvious reasons for this.

Parents know that a maths qualification is often essential in finding employment. Although some jobs involve little maths, many skilled public services require a level of basic level of numeracy. In addition, maths is used in science and other school subjects, and is very subject for pupils who study such subjects on a cultural level. It is the basis of communication in science and quantitative information is involved.

The importance of maths to a pupil's career prospects makes it difficult to decide on borderline candidates for CSE or GCE. To avoid excluding children altogether, many schools offer a limited "grade" Mode III CSE, so that virtually all pupils can be entered for maths in some way. Whether it is in the best interests of the pupils is questionable, but the social climate in the world outside and in the school itself, a strong pressure which is difficult to resist.

In its proposals for a common examining system at 16-plus, the Schools Council, by choosing to itself to the top 60 per cent of the ability range in each subject, refuses to face up to problems of universal entry in a subject like maths. Examining bodies carry its own special headaches. History, for example, a candidate asked to write on the trade union movement, can put down what he remembers of the topic and gain marks, even if his answer is incomplete. At worst he will at least have some conception of what the question means. In maths he is faced with a candidate who has studied reasonably diligently and yet put down nothing that will carry marks.

Here "adequate discrimination"—a phrase which features in one of the feasibility studies—needs to be treated with some suspicion. The spread of marks may make the awarding of grades straightforward, but did the papers test what we really want to test, or above all what is easy to test? How many candidates were only able to show

what they could not do rather than what they could? The other side of "adequate discrimination" is that many pupils score very low marks (more than a quarter with under 15 per cent in one paper in the trial studies) but it is not untypical. It will be bad disillusionment with the examination, but it is more likely to show that a substantial proportion of pupils have been doing a totally pointless course. It is traditional for mathematics teachers to get much of their teaching syllabus from past examination papers, which thus influence courses in future years.

On the other hand, how many able candidates in the feasibility studies were given a paper which could not reflect their abilities? The ability range in mathematics is very wide, especially if almost all pupils are candidates. By 16, some able pupils have not only covered a great deal more content than average but can also work at a level of abstraction (an essential feature of mathematics) which other pupils will reach years later, if at all. Such pupils need a course that is worthy of their attention and their teachers must not be encouraged by an inadequate examination system simply to mark time.

Conventional timed written papers test many mathematical skills well, but some pupils do not do themselves justice. There are mathematical skills and personal qualities—persistence and determination or the ability to explore mathematically—which are not tested in this way and which may prejudice success in such an examination. Too little attempt was made in the feasibility studies to explore other ways of testing, largely for want of time.

We arrive at some targets for a common system of maths examining:

- An assessment of all pupils.
- An exam to show what a candidate can do, rather than what he cannot.
- A suitable and acceptable qualification for employment, and a basis for future studies.
- A system flexible enough to encourage teachers to provide a variety of courses, some suitable for the mathematically able, but others for those who find generalization difficult.
- Assessment of qualities which conventional exams ignore.

The feasibility studies and existing GCE and CSE exams show clearly that a test based on common

papers for all candidates is not desirable. Some degree of choice is essential. Choice of questions within papers is not satisfactory (the less able candidate is often able to identify the "easy" questions). Thus a choice of papers must be made. This perpetuates the present CSE choice difficulties and means that wrong choices prejudices a candidate's chances. This first difficulty would be less with a common exam than with the present separate papers, and it should be possible to make the choice to be made at a later stage.

Four papers could avoid the difficulties. Under such a system a candidate would take papers 1, 2, 3, on which a really good performance would get the highest grade. Paper 1 would reflect the more concrete and practical approach adopted with less able pupils. Paper 2 would take papers 1 and 2, most able would take paper 3 and 4, of which 4 would need deeper understanding and wider knowledge. A "wrong" choice of papers would be made with minimal effect.

There are two other possibilities. A short test of basic arithmetic and spatial skills could be a feature of all schemes and modes, including Mode III. Such a test, based on an agreed "core", would help employers to choose recruits more efficiently than by the present system of arithmetic tests, and to assure them that basic numeracy was part of all courses. Also, part of the test could be based on work done outside the exam.

If a common system is introduced, a first priority will be the syllabus which was not considered enough in the feasibility studies. What do "common syllabus" mean in mathematics? This raises questions about the aims and objectives of mathematics for all pupils. (The Mathematics Association has just produced a booklet on this subject.) What, What and How, which, hoped, will encourage discussion. Finally, it could be argued that requirements mentioned in the feasibility studies are not the only ones. This is so but the feasibility studies have highlighted points which need urgent attention, which over the decision on a common exam.

The authors are members of the 14-18 sub-committee of the teaching committee of the Mathematics Association.

Redundant lecturers 'should be switched to in-service training'

by Bert Lodge

At least 1,200 of the college of education lecturers faced with redundancy because of the cut-back in teacher training should be moved over to help with in-service training, the Government's advisory committee on staffing recommends this week.

It also suggests that where school reorganization makes new demands on experienced teachers they should be released for a term's in-service training. This would be quicker and more effective than attempting regular half-day release arrangements.

The committee, the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Training of Teachers, repeats its belief in the importance of all local authorities starting an induction scheme for new teachers in their first year. This should begin in 1976 with a view to the full scheme being introduced nationally over the next three years.

The Government has accepted the scheme in principle but is still refusing to fix a starting date because of present economic circumstances.

The contribution which colleges and departments of education can make to in-service training is the subject of detailed recommendations by committee. It suggests that a proportion of those lecturers who are freed by the school service training should be sent to the schools while still retaining members of the college staff.

Others could be seconded part-time to local authorities to work alongside the local in-service advisers. The committee emphasizes in its report that the most effective way will only be made of staff now being released in the colleges, if each school in a situation with its own staff development policy. It is also vital that local authorities have not yet established representa-

tive consultative machinery to define local needs and policies on in-service training should be urged to do so. The consultative committees should be made up of serving teachers (50 per cent), local authorities (25 per cent) and 25 per cent from the college or department of education.

Whatever the institution it might be able to do to gather together all the resources available for redeployment and establish a distinct department of INSET (in-service training). The department would require a full-time head on an appropriate senior grade.

The committee also suggests that colleges and departments of education would make possible a continuing teacher education from preparation to induction, leading to steady development of the professional's career. It would mean that resources for initial training would remain intact if any further expansion, but threatened seriously to imperil their viability and impoverish their curriculum.

The committee hopes that, where possible, colleges and departments will receive the needs of teachers and schools in more than one employment, and that particular concern will be shown for authorities which have no college or department.

Present expenditure on INSET provision in colleges and departments is not partly by fees, usually paid by a teacher's employing authority, and partly by a charge on the institution's maintenance grant. The committee recommends that in future no charge should be made other than tuition fees at the normal levels for further and higher education courses of comparable standard and duration.

Every new teacher, it says, should undergo a one-year induction programme. Ideally, this timetable should be limited by 25 per cent during this period.

Barrister to head Tyndale tribunal

Mr Michael Howard, a barrister, is to head the disciplinary tribunal which is to consider the behaviour of the teachers criticized in the William Tyndale report.

Mr Howard is a member of the same chamber as Mr Robin Auld, QC, who was chairman of the public inquiry. The proceedings open on September 29.

Sitting with Mr Howard on the tribunal will be Mr John Bevan, assistant education officer responsible for higher education who up to now has been chairman of the Tyndale affair, Mr Guy Rogers, a staff inspector on secondary education, and two teachers, Mr E. R. Stephens, head of Oliver Alderson Junior mixed school, and Mr R. Edwards, a teacher at Peckham Park primary school.

The head, Mr Terry Ellis, is accused of misconduct, inefficiency and indiscipline. The inefficiency is alleged to have occurred in his relationships with the infant school and parents and in introducing new methods of teaching in the period up to July 1974.

Mr Brian Haddow, a teacher, is accused of inefficiency in coordinating team teaching at the school between September and December 1974.

The two, and four other members of staff, are accused of indiscipline in relation to a strike during the first attempt to inspect the school in September 1975. The allegation of misconduct against Mr Ellis also refers to his closing of the school in connexion with the strike.

Mr Ellis said this week: "We have not yet decided whether we will be legally represented, but I rather think we will want to defend ourselves personally."

Fight switches to Berkshire

The National Association for Freedom, which paid the legal costs of the case, is now concentrating helping 15 parents in Berkshire. The association is also in contact with all the rebel local authorities which are determined to keep selection.

The Berkshire parents have taken legal advice over the council's decision to bar their sons from Windermere Grammar School even though they had passed the 11-plus.

This week one of the parents asked the National Association for Freedom for help. The association was set up last year after the murder of Mr Row McWhirter, who had himself been involved in a legal battle over education in Enfield in 1967.

Mr John Gourtlet, the association's director, said they had not yet decided whether they would take part in the Berkshire case. They were in the process of finding out more of the facts. "We are not going into battles which are clearly losing ones."

Tory MPs press for gag on speakers

Conservative MPs are very angry about how the sister of a hanged man came to talk in schools and an ex-burglar was allowed to speak to a school assembly for six minutes.

The MPs are demanding inquiries into both cases and one has called for a departmental ban on talks by Miss Iris Bentley about his brother Derek, who was hanged in 1953 as accessory to the murder of a policeman.

Dr Rhodes Boyson is protesting about Mr Dick Towley, a founder of the prisoners' rights organization FRAP, who has spoken in schools in London, Sussex, Nottingham and elsewhere over the past three years. "There should be an immediate inquiry into what is happening in inner London schools", Dr Boyson said.

He has written to Dr Eric Bristow, LEA's education officer, to complain about a trade union official who spoke to girls at Highbury Hill School as part of their course on society and work. Dr Bristow re-

sponded that maintaining a balance in such courses did not mean avoiding controversial issues.

The complaints about Miss Bentley came last week from three other Conservative MPs. The Cockpit Theatre in Education team has been performing a documentary play about the case, in which Christopher Craig, the 16-year-old who was said to have actually fired the fatal shot, was sent to prison for 10 years.

Pupils saw the play as part of their social studies course and were told that Miss Bentley would then answer questions and talk about her brother. She was invited to 16 schools.

One of the MPs, Mr Ivan Lawrence, complained that the minds of children were being influenced in a deliberate way and the legal system brought into disrepute. He called upon the Secretary of State, Mr Fred Mulley, to put a stop to it.

Mr Michael Brotherton, MP, said: "The police have a duty to prevent lawlessness from spreading disaffection against the law." But Miss Bentley denied she did this. "The first thing I say is I am a law-abiding citizen. I believe in the law. Where

Newcastle's new strap is longer, wider, heavier

A new leather strap, approved last week by Newcastle upon Tyne Education Committee for punishing pupils in the city's 180 schools, is longer, wider and heavier than the model it replaces.

But Mr Philip Bowden, assistant director of education, said this week that it still looked like a toy compared with some of the straps used in Scottish schools.

The new tawse was recommended by a working party of teachers and councillors with a view to standardizing the form of corporal punishment. It is 20in long, 1 1/2in wide and weighs just over 2oz. It is preferred to the previous approved model which was 18in long, 1 1/2in wide and weighed slightly less.

Last January there was a riot in a Newcastle comprehensive after the head had announced that in future girls could also expect the tawse. Six pupils were subsequently found guilty by a juvenile panel, three of assaulting teachers and three of causing damage. Punishment ranged from fines up to £50 to being sent to an attendance centre for six two-hour sessions.

Nothing in Newcastle education authority's regulations prohibits the use of the strap on girls, but this had happened in Newcastle.

A spokesman for the National Union of Teachers said their policy was that teachers should be consulted on the matter of corporal punishment. They were satisfied that this had happened in Newcastle.

Higher fees force out OU students

Many Open University students are dropping out because they cannot afford the increased fees the university is being forced to charge, Sir Walter Perry, its vice-chancellor, claims.

At the Department of Education and Science's insistence, fees have gone up from £150 to £270 for six credits needed for a degree, and the drop-out rate has increased by more than 20 per cent since 1973. Next year 20,000 students are expected to start undergraduate studies with the Open University. This is 3,000 more than last year but 4,200 fewer than the record 1971.

The drop-out rate is particularly high among first-year students and about 30 per cent withdrew last year compared to an average 25 per cent since 1973.

The Open University has just bought itself a £200,000 Oxford College which was an Anglican theological college, Ripon Hall, on Boar's Hill, because it found renting too expensive.

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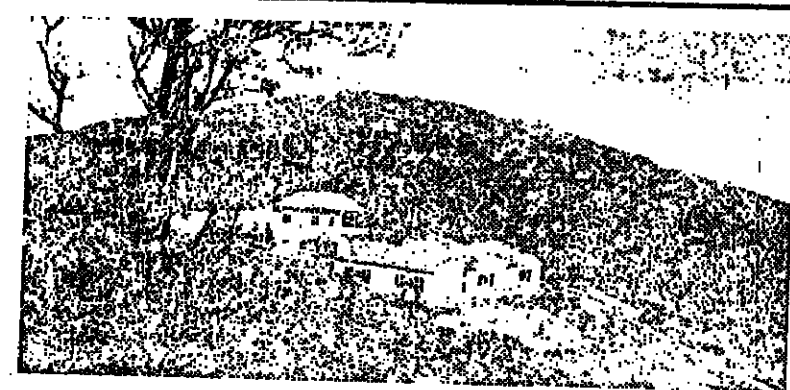
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Bert Lodge meets Don Calogero, the priest who runs a school for the gifted in Sicily (above)

A Godfather for the gifted

Italy has produced her fair share of saintly figures whose good works have won them reputations soaring over frontiers.

In the nineteenth century Don Turin, plunged into the slums of Turin, his arms full of books and bread for the poorest of whom he founded a whole new order. Don Calogero, a Sicilian priest, has done something like a godfather until they loosened some of the feudal fastenings on the island. There are now Dolci trusts in half a dozen countries. Mother Teresa, though born across the Straits of Otranto, laid out her daily faith on the flagstones of Calcutta with enough television cameras watching to save her order from fading.

Two of these "saints" were religious. They were on the side of the naked, the hungry, the poor, the outcast, the alien. But what were they not? They were, but not me. All I'm concerned about is the elite.

The total absence of shame would have turned a CASE face purple. It could have been Auberon Waugh talking—instead of a chubby Father Brown of an Italian cleric with a George Robey twinkle in his eye.

Almost 25 years ago Don Calogero left his place, ministering in his birthplace, Luggano, Sopranò, one of those mid-Sicily towns where poverty is part of the tourist attraction. As was usual for the local priest, he taught religion in elementary schools and was concerned at how much intelligence, talent, and energy were being wasted in local grammar schools called for sacrifices most families could not afford and long before 14 many a bright youngster had deserted school anyway.

As Don Calogero put it: "I was convinced I had a vocation for the gifted. I believe in the intelligence; it's not to be neglected. It's society's capital."

His academy for the elite contained 16 boys at first—or so he still thought to need a different sort of pastoring in Sicily—in a single

dwelling 3,500 feet up in the Madonie mountains. He called it, with Boysonian effrontery, "The Community of the Gifted"—the Villaggio dei Superdotati.

His selection process was more businesslike than charitable. In the schools he asked around for likely names, gave them all intelligence tests and rejected any boy with an IQ of less than 120. Then he started with no fewer than 10 and sometimes with 12 teachers, some of whom were part-time.

This happened in a country where as recently as 1972 the Minister of Education admitted to being short of nearly 1,500,000 primary school places, 680,000 secondary places and having only two desks for every three pupils.

It was not until 1966 that he had enough money to start his own venture. The money came from his own savings, from Mensa, the organization for those with very high IQs, from a group of American Jewish sympathizers, and even a little from the Sicilian regional authority. And he had an armful of borrowings.

It was his enthusiasm, not his cheque book, that made Don Calogero such a successful recruiter of staff. But his passion for the cause looked like emptying his begging bowl at times. "I haven't come here to ask you for money," he told the international gathering of Mensa at Luggano in 1967. "I want you to do something for society. You're like Narcissus, sitting around congratulating yourselves on your superior intelligence. What are you doing with it?"

He grinned mischievously, and said: "They gave me some money, though, a good job. When I think I started off the Villaggio by writing out one and a half kilos of IQUs. We had so many financial crises at the beginning."

Now it looks as though these are past. One crisis with a milkman over a bill led to him buying a cow. Then came sheep, chickens, goats. Finally a restaurant opened two years ago which took £400 on the Sunday before Don Calogero left for England. Inquiries about the Villaggio have come from Tur-



... a chubby Father Brown of an Italian cleric with a George Robey twinkle

key, South America and even, he tells with amused pride, the DES in this country. There is a "Friends of the Villaggio" group in Chicago.

What has come out of that selective planting 10 years ago? His first four students to come right through the school have just finished their first year at university. One has got a state scholarship to study nuclear physics in Pisa, the others are doing medicine, agricultural chemistry and architecture.

The medical student learnt enough in French, German and English and accompanied Don Calogero on his summer travels. The Villaggio is not one of those rigorous gymnasia that exist in Russia and East Germany. It is more like A. S. Neill's Summerhill. There is no compulsion to study, no competition, no marks; the administration is in the hands of the pupils, now numbering about 50, and so the money. There are no locks on any cupboards or doors.

It's a total learning environment, explains Don Calogero, the jargon sounding less and more like a mixture of Italian and French sprinkled with English. And, on the right sort of teachers come to this country. "If I don't get them I shall have to go to our own Ministry of Education and I don't want to have to do that," he explained.

A Ministry is too much of an institution for his peace of mind. "I respect institutions but not those which oppress," he said. But wasn't he a son of a most authoritarian institution, the church? "Yes, and I am a loyal orthodox priest—though I would like to see liberal." As a loyal priest, did he undertake the evangelising mission

of leading men to Christ? He nodded his head emphatically, but added: "If it happens it will be a consequence of freedom. I believe in intelligence and goodness going together."

Were all his pupils with their guaranteed intelligence good then? "Not when they arrive. Some of them arrive at 10 years old from Palermo, already experienced shoplifters. We generally find the pilfering dies away when they have been with us two years. But we did have one who ran off with the cash." There is no disappointment in his voice. "If we hadn't got those youngsters from the back streets of Palermo and let them develop their intelligence they would all have grown up into misfits," he insists. "We shall make something good out of them."

He points out that it is only now with the expectation of regular money from the restaurant that the scheme can settle down and take about 15 pupils every year who will spend eight or nine years at the Villaggio. Financial crises, family needs and scepticism have meant few have stayed the whole course yet.

But none of the four who did have got to university if they had come here, he says. "They would have had to leave school at 14—if they stayed that long." Don Calogero is not unkind. "Don't let me have anything for them until he has much more money. As for the children at the other end of the scale, he says simply: 'The state has begun to look after them. My vocation is for the gifted.'"

Bob Doe

Protest grows as 20,000 join the dole

About 500 students representing colleges and education departments will hold a mass meeting in Liverpool on September 1. It will be a protest against unemployment.

The conference, lasting three days and organized by the National Union of Students, will be at Edge Hill College of Education, Ormskirk, near Liverpool on September 1. It will be attended by representatives of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, who recently estimated that 20,000 teachers out of work, including 13,000 who qualified last year.

That's not a final figure, says Tony Driver, NATFHE general secretary, said this week. "It's the result of a second survey we conducted in the past few weeks based on returns from the colleges. We shall be conducting another survey in the autumn which may reveal a higher number. It is certainly not smaller."

The conference will discuss whether to resume the sit-in which took place at scores of colleges last term and, though there are likely to be some delegates in force, many will be opposed. Mr. Clark, NATFHE president said this week: "If we resume the sit-in they can hardly be sustained for a whole year. So what do you do?"

It is also doubtful how much support students would give to a campaign. Some are still a long way from the realities of job seeking, particularly those beginning their first year next term.

Mr. Clark was confident they would be enthusiastic. One of the substantial grants about the sit-in was how much support came from the first and second years, he said.

Mr. Francis Beckett, the union press officer, suggested that the campaign would shift towards the authorities with the idea of persuading them not to implement the unions were forming a bank from the NUS, NATFHE and the National Union of Teachers had held fortnightly meetings to plan a joint campaign.

NATFHE's attitude towards students would be the same as last term, Mr. Driver said. "We are asking our members to withdraw their labour, but it was understood they would not take part in any disruptive action against students."

The question of his members taking action themselves would have to be approved by the executive, he added.

Learning how to be second-class

The education of adult immigrants is a topic that has been discussed in the past. A book published this week claims to be a report of an international conference held last year on adult immigrant education. The book, a report of an international conference held last year on adult immigrant education, claims to be a report of an international conference held last year on adult immigrant education.

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Bob Doe

English teachers who swop jobs with American colleagues under exchange schemes are finding that their UK salaries leave them perilously close to the poverty line for their year in the United States. Reports by Michael Binyon in Washington and Bert Lodge in London

About 100 English teachers will get off an aeroplane at Gatwick this morning uttering "rip-off", the Americanism they learnt after a year of underpaid teaching in the New World.

For exchange teaching in the United States they all got several hundred pounds less than they expected and some of them, Burnham, thought they were entitled to food vouchers under the American social security system.

The aeroplane that brought them home will take off again today with the other half of the exchange, 100 American teachers. Their tale when they alight at Kennedy airport will be a year in England which gave them several hundred pounds more than their American salary.

The rude experience of the English teachers began last June before they left. When they signed the contract a pound was worth about \$2.40. Almost immediately it fell to \$2.00 and by May this year the value of the pound had dropped to \$1.70. It is not difficult to see what anybody's £4,000 a year of Burnham was worth by then. And remember United Kingdom tax was deducted at source.

Cum gratias surfaced in the House of Commons early last year when the Education Secretary replied bluntly, in answer to a question, that the teachers continued to receive their British salaries together with substantial grants from central Government funds to help with the additional cost of living.

They were receiving, of course, what was left of their British salaries after the international financiers had got their hands on them. The insurance doesn't cover them. When my wife dislocated her thumb we couldn't afford a doctor. We couldn't even send for one when the children got chickenpox.

Most vigorous champion of the teachers has been lecturer from Bath College of Technology, Dr. Robert Giddings, who has spent his year in St. Louis, Missouri. He has collected individual tales of distress and forwarded them to the agency which arranges the exchanges, the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges.

He pointed out other expenses which would use up that extra £20 a week. Food alone, not subsidised as it is here, is a formidable item,

Land of promise—if you can afford it.

Although the United States Government provides health insurance, it does not apply to dependents and is a long way from the comprehensive care given by the National Health Service.

As Mr. Colin Lishman, a social science teacher from Uxbridge who spent the year teaching in Denver, Colorado, put it: "I can't afford dental care. All the children have got cavities but the insurance doesn't cover them. When my wife dislocated her thumb we couldn't afford a doctor. We couldn't even send for one when the children got chickenpox."

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Stars and gripes: exchange staff sunk by floating pound



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Science diary

by John Maddox

the records in the older continental rocks which show in which directions the earth's magnetic field has been aligned in the distant past, and in particular up to 1,200 million years ago. One of the things the palaeomagnetists can do is to tell from the direction in which ancient rocks are magnetised where the north and south poles of the earth's magnetic field were when the rocks themselves were formed, from which it seems now to be clear that Africa, South America and Australia at the very least were welded together for something like 1,000 million years before Gondwanaland began to break up 200 million years ago. It follows from this that whatever processes of continental drift were at work between the end of the pre-Cambrian and the break-up of Gondwanaland, they cannot have been simply a replica of what is happening at present.

Yet another line of argument is the rate at which the surfaces of the continents are being eroded by the weather. For a long time it has been plain that the time scale of erosion is much shorter than the history of the earth. Some people estimate that it will take only some 500 million years before the surfaces of the continents as we know them are worn down to sea level, which in turn implies that if erosion had always been as rapid as it is at present, the material of which the continents are at present made would have been reworked between five and 10 times in the history of the earth.

How, then, does it come about that some of the most ancient rocks are thought to be roughly 3,800 million years old? Why have they not been worn away? Hargraves' answer is that the surface of the earth for most of the past 3,000 million years must have been very different from what it is at present. Continents as we know them are a comparatively recent invention, since the Pre-Cambrian.

So, how did it all begin? Hargraves picks his way through the several sketchy models which have recently been constructed of the early history of the earth, to arrive at the conclusion that, to begin with, soon after the assembly of the material of which it is made, the earth was a spherical mass of molten rock covered by a relatively uniform ocean, roughly 2 kilometres deep. Quite quickly, the outer skin of this rock, cooled rapidly by the water lying above it, would have solidified and, resting as it was on a still nearly molten mass of rock, the continents were being eroded by the weather. For a long time it has been plain that the time scale of erosion is much shorter than the history of the earth. Some people estimate that it will take only some 500 million years before the surfaces of the continents as we know them are worn down to sea level, which in turn implies that if erosion had always been as rapid as it is at present, the material of which the continents are at present made would have been reworked between five and 10 times in the history of the earth.

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cut in the standard of living sustained in the US by British teachers and their families which subsidises the American exchange teachers' year in Britain."

And what has the year been like for the Americans this end? A three-term banana? Not according to Miss Ann Lipton, 29-year-old history teacher from Williamsburg, Virginia, who spent the year at Queen Mary High School, Wexham. She made the point that Virginia did not pay very high salaries. "My annual salary was about £5,700 when I arrived last August," she said. "OK, so it went up about £20 or £30 a month when the pound dropped but it didn't really make a lot of difference."

Miss Lipton reckoned she had spent about the same on food here as back home. "It's only the subsidised food I find cheaper here," she said. "Frozen food,

Name _____
Address _____



Schools Prom

Sponsored by
THE TIMES
Educational Supplement

Monday 29 November
Tuesday 30 November 1976

Commences 7.30 p.m. (Doors open 7 p.m.)

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

General Manager: Anthony J. Chaffin

Now a second great year...

Announcing the second year of the overwhelmingly popular Schools Prom Concerts. Perhaps the most accomplished and entertaining programme of young people's music today, featuring the most outstanding young musicians from The National Festival of Music for Youth. The Schools Prom has now been developed into a two-night event with concerts on 29 and 30 November at the Royal Albert Hall, sponsored by The Times Educational Supplement.

Orchestral, ensemble, swing, jazz, wind...

In fact, all kinds of musical style will be featured... by all kinds of the most promising young musicians our schools can offer.

Introducing this score of musical talent will be well-known personalities from the world of contemporary music including Antony Hopkins, Robin Ray, Humphrey Lyttelton and Derek Jewell.

Special Prices/Discounts...

As happens with the Sir Henry Wood Promenade Concerts the arena seats will be removed for the concerts. Both this area and the Gallery are offered at the following special prices:

Promenade Arena 40p (80p on night) (standing not available)
Gallery 40p (80p on night) (for children under 12)

There will also be a party discount of one free seat per 12 booked seats. School party travel arrangements can be made through B.U.S. School Travel Service, 190 Campden Hill, Notting Hill Gate, Kensington, London W8. Tel: 01-221 8287 contact Jill Daniels. Or your local National Travel (N.T.C.) Ltd representative.

Booking Your Choice of Nights...

You now have a choice of two nights, 29 and 30 November. Different music groups are playing each evening and promise to be equally exciting and entertaining, offering an exuberant evening's music by the leading musicians of tomorrow. The variety and range of musical content will be the same for both evenings, though not the same works.

In view of the considerable interest already shown in this unique musical event, advance booking is advisable and should be made as soon as possible, by completing the order form.

Please enclose stamped-addressed envelope to:
Schools Prom, Advance Bookings, Royal Albert Hall,
Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP.

Please send me tickets for the Schools Prom as follows:

Gallery tickets at 40p each
Arena tickets at 40p each
Stalls and Grand Tier at £2.00 each
Loggia and 2nd Tier at £1.75 each
Balcony (central) at £1.00 each
Balcony (side) at 75p each
Middle and Upper Orchestra at £1.00 each

I enclose cheque/P.O. to the value of £..... plus stamped envelope. (Please make cheques payable to Royal Albert Hall.)

Name: Mr/Ms/Miss

Representing:

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SPORT

World beater at 14

Ross Hepburn, a 14-year-old Edinburgh schoolboy, created a new junior world record in the high jump when he cleared 6ft 8in at the Amateur Athletics Association's championships at Crystal Palace on Saturday. Another inch would have ensured him a place in the records as the youngest ever senior AAA champion.

Ross, a pupil at Forrester High School, came fourth behind the first three, all of whom cleared 6ft 9in. He has been helped on his way by the training at senior level given him in England.

The Scottish Amateur Athletics Association have, up to now, regarded him as a junior allowed to compete only against his own age group. This meant travelling south on average once a month at a cost to his family of between £20 and £25 a time. Edinburgh Athletics Club have helped his training stint of two hours a night five nights a week.

But now, Mr Bob Dalgleish, president of the S.A.A., has conceded that to encourage him Ross will be allowed to meet seniors in Scotland. He foresees no problem in allowing him to compete in the Edinburgh Highland Games at Meadowbank Stadium on Sunday next.



With the proliferation of PE degrees "it is conceivable that the theory and practice of physical education will grow inalienably apart", writes D. H. Williams, senior lecturer in PE, Chester College

Whither the great paper chase?

It is good that there will soon be a proliferation of degrees in physical education if only to dispel those cobwebs of thought that still envisage physical education as some form of "PT" and the physical educationist as a second-class professional, a little above a groundsman.

One wonders, however, whether those who thought so hard for physical education degrees would be satisfied with the developing format and underlying trends. The form is that to gain academic credibility physical education is being fragmented by the isolated study of scientific subjects, each of which could fall to itself the essential ethos of the complete faculty of physical education and might even convey a distorted picture. If those responsible for mounting individual courses are themselves not qualified in physical education the situation is aggravated often through indifference, plain error of focus, or antipathy towards the practical components.

Much thought is required in presenting a practical subject like physical education in an academically viable form. The form is offered give the impression of a physical educationist is almost totally a laboratory, or lecture room, affair. This might be relevant for a candidate aiming to join that small, but growing, nucleus of researchers, but it is hardly likely to attract the hard core of those who turn to physical education because they enjoy the practical aspects, have the ability to study it in depth and wish to return to the practical environment.

In brief

Clearing house

From September 1 all applications for courses leading to the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work will be handled by a new clearing house set up by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work. The clearing house adds the council's regional office at Rugby.

Traffic exam?

Mr John Byrne, the newly appointed officer for the schools traffic education programme in Colchester, Essex, wants traffic education put on the curriculum of all schools. It should, he says, include motorway traffic laws, insurance and mechanics, and should eventually become an examinable subject for CSE.

£2,000 for probe

A grant of up to £2,000 has been awarded by The Nuffield Foundation to the socio-legal studies section at Sheffield City Polytechnic to support an investigation by members of the socio-legal studies section into the service provided by the Sheffield Free Legal Information Service.

Concrete facts

The Cement and Concrete Association is to run two intensive five-day courses for teachers to demonstrate the creative and practical potential of concrete as an educational medium. The courses will be held from September 26 to October 1 and from April 17-22. Inquiries to the Registrar, Cement and Concrete Association Training Centre, Slough, Berks.

People

Mr Christopher Jolliffe, who has been acting director of the Leverhulme Trust Fund, is to be director until September 30 next year when Dr Ronald Trevelyan, master of Birbeck College, London, will take over.

Mr Thomas Hones is to be the new chairman of the Rubber and Plastics Processing Industry Board, Employers' and Workers' Secretaries, for the next three years. Mr Hones is chairman of GKN Sankey Ltd.

Universities

Mr J. Nelson Norman, reader in the department of surgery at Aberdeen University, to a chair in surgical mental medicine.

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Kirkdale School

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Books: sex;
biography; education;
history;
technical textbooks

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Resources:
music

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Talkback: sixth forms
Rumantsch

Learning to survive

Keith Wheeler examines some of the latest initiatives for improving environmental education

The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements which took place recently in Vancouver aimed to find ways of improving the lot of people living in rapidly expanding urban environments and in particular solving the overwhelming problems of Third World cities. Such a subject inevitably attracted comment and controversy.

It is not unusual for UN conferences of this kind to make token genuflections towards education. But another international meeting on environmental education, which also took place recently, did more than this. It was the Belgrade workshop on environmental education in October, which formed an important part of the Unesco/Unep environmental education programme. Such an important effort deserves attention.

Both Habitat and the Environmental Education programme stem from resolutions made at the Stockholm UN Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. This was the first time governments agreed to collaborate to prevent the deterioration of the environment. One practical outcome was the setting up of the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep), with headquarters in Nairobi. Unep has the task of coordinating and supporting worldwide environmental research.

Another outcome of Stockholm was Resolution 96, which called for "an international programme in environmental education, interdisciplinary in approach, in-school and out-of-school, encompassing all levels of education and directed towards the general public, in particular urban areas, youth and adult alike, with a view to educating him as to the simple management and control of his environment". This resolution gave rise to the environmental education programme—probably the UN's most ambitious attempt so far to influence educational policy among member states.

Four million dollars have been allocated for the three-year programme, sponsored by Unesco and Unep, which started in January 1975. Its development falls into three phases. The first, now completed, consisted of surveying the needs and priorities for environmental education by a questionnaire to member states. In addition, Unesco consultants went on fact finding and advisory missions to countries in the developing world. (Britain was one of the few countries which did not reply to the questionnaire.) At the same time 14 international experts in environmental education were asked to prepare papers on aspects of world environmental education.

The highlight of the first phase was the Belgrade workshop, in which representatives from more than 80 countries reviewed the papers in the light of the needs and priorities survey and made recommendations to promote worldwide environmental education. These discussions left nobody in doubt about the serious interest of developing countries in environmental education, and dispelled the myth that concern for quality of the environment is an indulgence only rich countries can afford. Indeed, what became clear was that all nations were

"underdeveloped" where environmental education was concerned.

By unanimous agreement at the workshop, the Belgrade Charter for Environmental Education was drawn up, setting out the goals for environmental education and calling for a new global ethic which "espouses attitudes and behaviour for individuals and societies which are consonant with humanity's place within the biosphere". There was little in the charter which had not been suggested before by environmental educationists in Britain. What was new, perhaps, was the recognition that environmental education could only be successful in a world community which abolished economic inequality between nations. Hence the charter stated: "The resources of the world should be developed in ways which will benefit all of humanity, and provide the potential for raising the quality of life for everyone."

British educationists should not be put off by this international jargon. Despite its infelicitous phrasing, the charter gives a framework for environmental education worth considering by those who accept the need to "develop a world population that is aware of, and concerned about, the environment and its associated problems and which has the knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivation and commitment to work individually and collectively towards solutions to current problems and the prevention of new ones". The charter's guiding principles are that environmental education should:

- Consider the environment in its totality: natural and man-made, ecological, political, economic, technological, social, legislative, cultural and aesthetic.
- Be interdisciplinary in its approach.
- Emphasize active participation in pre-

venting and solving environmental problems.

- Examine major environmental issues from a world point of view while paying due regard to regional differences.
- Focus on current and future environmental situations.
- Examine all development and growth from an environmental perspective.
- Promote the value and necessity of local, national and international cooperation in the solution of environmental problems.

However desirable the goals and principles of the charter, they remain ineffectual declarations of intent unless some means is found of implementing them.

The other important result of the Belgrade workshop was that more than 100 recommendations were made proposing action. Here, as with all international conference proposals, they were phrased to encompass the varying political and cultural views of the contributing countries. Nevertheless, they identified steps to be taken towards obtaining funds, staff and curriculum innovation.

The second part of the Unesco programme begins this autumn, when the recommendations are reviewed at seminars in the major world regions: European, North American, South American, Asian, and Arab. The European regional seminar, the last to take place, is in Helsinki during January 1977. At the same time Unesco and Unep are supporting 25 pilot projects, five from each region. Two are beginning in France, and in Britain the Town and Country Planning Association's education unit has won approval for a project "Research and Training in Urban Environmental Education".

Other regions will produce publications, such as an analysis of the needs

and priorities survey; descriptions of case studies; and an international environmental education handbook. Each region will also consider the setting up of a resource centre for environmental education. An international network of communication is being organized by Unesco as part of the Unep international referral system, to exchange ideas and information. This already includes more than 4,000 names of individuals and organizations. An important feature of the network is the distribution of a quarterly newsletter, *Connect*: the first issue contains the text of the Belgrade charter.

British environmental educationists can make a decisive contribution to this important second phase of the programme. At the European regional seminar it should be possible for this country to introduce a welcome practical note into the proceedings. However, Britain cannot afford to be complacent about its own achievements which, although considerable, rest largely on the work of individuals and non-government organizations, and the dedicated campaigning of teachers' organizations such as the National Association for Environmental Education. In particular, funds for this work are dangerously short. Britain's national coordinating body, the Council for Environmental Education, is threatened with closure for lack of money. Fund allocation is an important item in the Belgrade recommendations.

The culmination of the third phase of the programme will be a world conference on environmental education to be held in the USSR during spring 1977. The conference will press governments to adopt national policies on environmental education as part of an internationally agreed approach. Afterwards efforts will be made to implement recommended policies, support experimental programmes, and design new pilot projects involving innovative methods, materials, and activities.

Like other international attempts to devise a common course of action, this one has its share of organizational, language, and political difficulties. Nevertheless, it embodies a great deal of hope for the future, because in the long run survival of us all on this planet still depends on education winning the race against catastrophe.

Keith Wheeler, a member of the Unesco/Unep environmental education working party and co-editor of *Insights into Environmental Education*, is on the staff of Leicester Polytechnic, Scraptoft Campus. For more information about the Unesco environmental education programme write to the Environmental Education Unit, Unesco, 7 place de Fontenay, 75700 Paris. The second issue of *Connect* contains details of the regional plans, projects and meetings. The Belgrade recommendations and *World Trends in Environmental Education* will be published shortly. The Department of Education and Science is coordinating Britain's contribution to the Helsinki meeting; further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Council for Environmental Education, School of Education, 24 London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ.



Almost free school

Kirkdale is a small school in south London started by parents disenchanted with the state system. Story by Tim Albert, pictures by Mark Edwards

It used to be the drawing room of one of those genteel South London Victorian villas; later, part of a doctor's surgery. Its walls are blanketed with bright orange paint, and the room itself is full of the debris of apparently happy children.

One table, lined with back copies of *The Guardian*, is full of poster paints. Another is strewn with open books, obviously part of a project on how Armstrong landed on the moon. On the wall a pouch contains an exercise book and some instructions: "Alistair. Write two short stories. Illustrate two proverbs. Check your spelling, grammar and writing. Write out any misspelt words and learn the correct spelling." On a window ledge are tadpoles and newts, a microscope, a battered typewriter, more books. On the blackboard is a recipe for lemon curd.

The room is now the schoolroom for the older children—the hornets—at Kirkdale, an independent, fee-paying, sort-of-free small school in Sydenham, south London. As well as a number of similar rooms inside, there is a splendid garden, just this side of Kemp. A small copse, mainly of evergreens, has been colonized by the children, and capped with an elaborate system of aerial walkways and pulleys. There are three sandpits, a rather weedy vegetable patch, Biggles the rabbit in a hutch, and some bantams living in an old freight crate from New York.

It is the kind of place where everybody is known by their first names and every decision seems to be taken at a public meeting. Kirkdale is a registered friendly society run by a board of parents/directors who hold twice-termly meetings.

The parents as a whole tend to be middle class, if not by life-style at least by origin or occupation. They include architects, teachers, a haulier, some actors; tend towards the type who read *Time Out* and *Private Eye* (which is where Kirkdale has been advertised); call their children Timmy and Justin and Poppy; live in the area and spend quite a lot of time helping at the school; and can afford the fees of up to £130 a term.

It is also the kind of place where the little lady who helps with the washing up will come up and say, "You know that trouble with most (other) schools is that they are still too concerned with 'kings and queens' and not concerned with 'the world we are coming into'." And it is also where the kids (it seems wrong somehow to call them children or pupils) come and demand to be interviewed.

Alistair turned out to be the chief spokesman, an articulate 11-year-old who had settled down at Kirkdale after swift careers at five Scottish primary schools. After explaining his reservations on the "standard of primary education in England" and the "erratic service" provided by London Transport (not to mention firing hugely complex technical questions at photographer Mark Edwards), he explained: "I was a bit bored before. Now I have more communication with the teachers. I couldn't get on with them before. They kept on dictating to you what you had to do."

Kirkdale was founded 11 years ago by John Powesland, a grammar school



classics master, and his wife, Susie, a primary teacher. They got the lease on the house, drummed up support from a few parents, and started with a total of four children, including one of their own.

"We had two main sets of aims," says Susie. "One set was for the belief in self-regulation for children: that they are likely to be more adaptable and mature. The other was that we were a group of parents who didn't want to hand over responsibility to the 'experts' in the education system."

John says, "We weren't happy about the state provision of education for our children. It seemed a silly system. A large number of children were put into a small room and it was dictated to them what they should do. . . . I couldn't see what sort of education this amounted to at all."

"Here we try to do what the children want to do, though of course we are limited and have to make certain compromises. So we offer them certain courses, and if they don't want to do any of these, we just leave them alone."

John and Susie are now back in the state system, though they still live in the flat upstairs, and John is secretary to the board of directors. Now, for the 30 children, there are four young teachers, plus Ros doing part-time music and Viv doing the cooking. Steve is 23, with an English degree from Warwick University, and plans to go on to the Froebel to do a teacher training course "sometime over the next five years". Bronwen is 27, a trained teacher from Australia, and Romy is 29, qualified at the Froebel, and with her daughter at the school. Peter is 31, veteran of the London School of Economics, and communities in Turkey, the Hebrides, Paris and the south of France.

"There are no pretensions here," says Steve. "We don't have to assume superior roles." "I found it difficult teaching in schools where I had to be



authoritarian", says Bronwen, "and impose things on the children. I feel more relaxed and happy teaching here—and I think the kids are happier, too."

There are, of course, rules and structure. Children need a road licence to be allowed to go to the sweetshop and, on the day I visited, all were reminded at an information meeting: "If people want to work you must not go up and interrupt them."

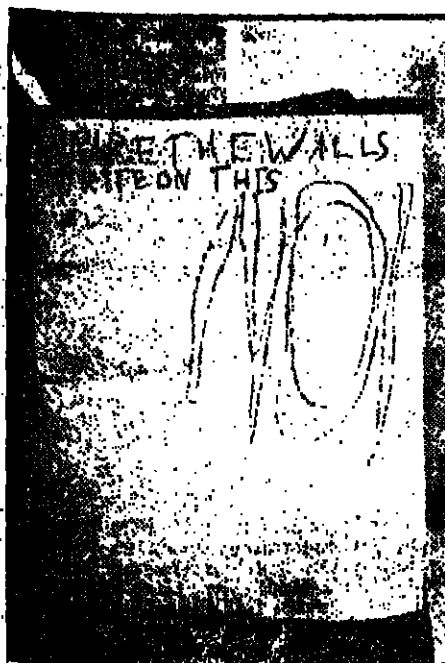
Meetings are crucial: there is one for the staff on Monday, the older children on Tuesday, the whole school on Wednesday, and an information meeting for everybody on Thursdays. There are also parent meetings twice a term.

Similarly, there are patterns to the week. Romy, for example, takes the hornets. Every morning she concentrates

on the three Rs until 11 or 12.30. Steve also comes in to help her. After lunch in a hut in the garden there is swimming on Monday afternoons, cooking on Tuesdays, carpentry on Wednesday, science and drama on Thursday, and outings, varying from museums to Chislehurst ponds, on Fridays.

"What I'm trying to do", she says, "is—through a close relationship with the kids—make them interested in learning, encourage them to find things out for themselves—and have a good time."

However, there are difficulties. One is the falling roll: at its peak there were 50 children, now there are 30. Susie is not too concerned. "It's partly the economic climate. People are more worried about making financial sacrifices. It has always been difficult to bring up children



In a different way than we were brought up, and I suppose when times are hard it worries people that little bit more."

The other difficulty is much more serious. The house and grounds belong to the Quadrant Housing Association, who plan a 28-home development. Susie says optimistically, "Maybe Quadrant can be persuaded to change their plans, or maybe the council will find us an alternative."

"But most of the parents feel determined that the school should carry on, and if that's the case then I'm sure it will. The school has always existed on a very slim chance. I have the feeling that it will go on like that forever."

Information about the school is available from Susannah Platt, 33 Mackenzie Road, Beckenham, Kent; telephone 01-778 0562.



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16 Resources

Electronic sounds and musical effects

by Colin Evans

How to make electronic music. Teacher handbook/4 filmstrips/ 2 LP records. 99RF 027. (£22.50) or 2 tapes 99TF 027 (£22.75). Noise and musical notes. 2 filmstrips/1 LP record. 99RF 28. (£10.70) or 1 cassette 99KF 28 (£10.90).

From Educational Audio Visual Ltd, Booterley Street, Leeds LS10 1AX. How to make electronic music is, without a doubt, one of the most exciting and stimulating music sets produced by Educational Audio Visual in recent years. Much thought has obviously gone into the presentation, the photography and the careful commentary. The set is designed as an introduction — for pupils or teachers — to making electronic music in the classroom with the minimum of electronic hardware.

The first two filmstrips contain between 70 and 80 frames each, which last only 13 minutes and many teachers may want to run them through again for discussion. EAV always seem at their best in the introductory filmstrips, when the commentary is not bogged down with technicalities and there is a wide variety of visual material.

Part 1, with its beautifully judged photographic effects, is especially dramatic. There is a brief historical background, but most of the filmstrip explains how the modified recordings can be built up using acoustic non-musical sounds.

In Part 2 on sound modification students are shown creating interesting sounds simply using two or three tape recorders, running them at different speeds, making tape loops or running the tapes backwards. The principle of feedback is illustrated — perhaps too briefly — and the filmstrip shows how such sounds may be used for modification using simple equipment.

Part 3 explains how the modified sounds can be combined and juxtaposed to produce innumerable musical effects. Students are shown creating simple electronic sound patterns and the filmstrip explains basic editing processes. Up to this point, most teachers will be able to follow the filmstrip through classroom projects with just a couple of good tape recorders and a portable cassette or reel-to-reel machine.

Part 4, however, after explaining the basics of acoustics and the nature of hearing, introduces the electronic synthesizer. The producers have sensibly kept the technical information as brief as possible and not become entangled in the infinite possibilities of this instrument.

To aid the teacher in follow-up projects, the set comes complete with an excellent 100 page book. This could be used effectively as either a teacher's guide or a pupil's book. There are dozens of photographs and diagrams, as well as suggestions for tape experiments in the classroom.

The chapters on the synthesizer are particularly useful, and the numerous projects divide themselves into sounds in formal structures, sounds in informal structures and sounds to accompany another medium. The technical information is accompanied by a glossary, where all the terms and processes are explained clearly.

This filmstrip set is not cheap, but it contains such a wealth of ideas and information that it should be seriously considered by all secondary teachers who are interested in developing their students' knowledge in this field.

Less exciting, but equally useful is another EAV set Noise and Musical Notes. It is designed for both music and physics classes, but the two sound filmstrips demand a previous understanding of basic acoustics.

The filmstrip begins with a description of how sound is produced and transmitted through the air. Using a violin, harp, trumpet and clarinet, the oscilloscope shows how the wave form reflects the difference in audible sound when these instruments all play the same note.

By means of electronic filtering, each component of the sound is displayed visually. Since each instrument is treated individually, this part of the filmstrip is rather predictable.

Part 2 of the set is more successful, although the pictures of the musicians are uninteresting. It shows how the electric guitar works, looks briefly at percussion instruments, and takes a detailed look at the workings of the human ear. Younger students would find all this heavy going, and it is recommended for fourth and fifth year classes.

Computers and economy

by Peter Barker

Computer Assisted Learning 1968-75. A report prepared for the Social Science Research Council by John Annett.

This useful report describes recent developments in the United Kingdom in the use of the computer for education. The phrase computer assisted learning (CAL) is used to cover any use of the computer as an aid to learning. This includes computer assisted instruction (CAI) which is usually associated with the use of computer terminals by students, and computer managed instruction (CMI) where the computer may be used to steer students through a large number of modules of teaching material, but where there may be no direct contact with the computer itself. These two main categories cover most of the work described in this report.

Projects may be divided roughly into two types. On the one hand we have fundamental research which is usually associated with the use of a computer terminal and the other are projects which have the specific aim of producing systems which will be used as a matter of course by pupils and students in a number of different educational settings in the United Kingdom. The first category of work has been largely paid for by the Social Science Research Council who have spent about £500,000 in the past seven years on different projects.

The three main centres for this research have been Leeds University, Edinburgh University and the London Borough of Haringey. The Haringey system is now in general use and there are plans to export it to Scotland. At Edinburgh the work has been oriented more towards artificial intelligence and cognitive psychology. It is hoped that this work will lead to "a better appreciation of some of the conceptual problems surrounding the notions of knowledge, understanding and intelligent teaching".

The other source of money, concerned mainly with development work, is the National Development Programme in Computer Assisted Learning (NDPCAL). This five-year project started at the beginning of 1973 with £2m of government money and an initial remit "to develop and secure the assimilation of computer assisted and computer managed learning on a regular institutional basis and reasonable cost". A considerable number of projects have been sponsored and are being independently

evaluated both educationally and financially. Already a number of reports are available through the Council for Educational Technology. During 1974 the NDPCAL was given the additional aim "to make recommendations to appropriate agencies in the public and private sectors... concerning future levels and types of computer assisted and computer managed learning in education and training". These recommendations when they appear could well have considerable impact on Government thinking about the use of the computer as an educational tool. Professor Annett has some very interesting comments to make about the NDPCAL, but because of the wide diversity of the projects, it might not be easy for the layman to get a clear picture of what is going on. An appendix summarizing the various NDPCAL projects would have been useful here.

The report does not emphasize the distinction between education and training where CAL is concerned. But, whereas the computer already has a place in technical training, and can be shown to be cost effective for certain applications, its broader field of education, in its use as a learning aid, is still to some extent that of an expensive gadget. Richard Hooper, director of NDPCAL, has pointed out that in the field of education computer assisted learning is an add-on cost. When a student is sitting working at a computer terminal this cost may be of the order of £2 to £3 a student hour. For the computer managed learning system operated in the London Borough of Haringey it is as little as 20p a student hour but this is still a considerable additional expenditure where hundreds of students are involved.

Meanwhile the technology of miniaturization and integrated circuits continues to move ahead and more and more electronic curricula may be bought for less and less money. Computer terminals are already appearing with built-in micro-processors. Professor Annett ends on an optimistic note with an implication that cheap but sophisticated terminals will enable further advances to be made. This may be true to a limited extent, but we have not seen any fundamental new developments taking place in the United States, where hardware of all types is more widely available. We still await the emergence of the intelligent computer, and the human teacher may rest assured that he will not be made redundant by a machine within the foreseeable future.

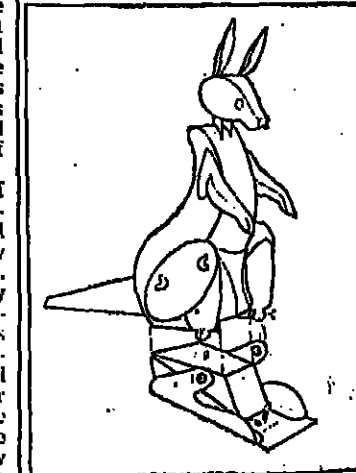
Personal files



A new range of folders with animal illustrations has been produced by Lawtons of Liverpool. Developed for young children in schools, animal folders are heavy-weight manilla pocket files, each with a partially cut-out colour illustration of an animal.

They have a place for the owner's name and some brief information on the animal on the lines of "I am a lion and I live on the wide open plains of North America. I am as tall as a man and as heavy as twelve men." They hold paper measuring up to 13 1/2 in by 8 1/2 in 1 1/2 in capacity and are available in packs of 50 at £10 each.

Lawtons of Liverpool Ltd, 60 Vauxhall Road, Liverpool L69 3AU.



An illustration from "Incredible Paper Machines" a new book by Vic Duggan-Whitely which shows how to make models using only paper and a clear adhesive. The book costs £1.25 and is published by Ward Lock.

In the land of the bong trees

Sense and Nonsense. Argo ZSW £22.30.

The Glenda Jackson Story Book. Argo ZSW \$55. £23.00.

Tom Sawyer read by Ring Crosby. Argo ZSW \$61.3. 3 records. £6.90.

Winnie the Pooh read by Norman Shelley. ZSW \$37.8. 3 records. £6.90.

Sense and Nonsense is a programme of songs and stories for young listeners chosen and performed by Peggy Ashcroft, who is joined in the studio by Marjorie Best and Edward Flower.

The sleeve note points out that the record is for the very young, and while the activities of strange creatures in the land of the bong trees will appeal to many young children, some of the material is more sophisticated than others. Indeed, one wonders what sort of children the performers have in mind as typical listeners. Martin Best is known for vocal recitals and on this record his light tenor voice is very attractive, although some of the folk songs might have sounded more appropriate with a more formal singing style. A pity, then, that "The Fox" appears in verse, rather than in the better known song version.

Glenda Jackson's voice seems a little severe when she begins the first story of The Glenda Jackson

Story Book. One almost expects her to stop reading to put a finger on a child in her place. But as the record progresses, her characterization and feeling for the material become increasingly sure. The record contains three fairy tales, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs".

"Snow White" occupies the entire second side, as well as the last track of side one. Despite its length, it is the most successful of the stories. The production is imaginative and the music is composed and played by Kenny Clayton complements the narrative.

Possibly the most colourful of this handful of Argo releases is Ring Crosby's readings from Tom Sawyer. It is appropriate in the children's bicentennial year that one of the great American classics has become available. The world of Tom Sawyer vanished before the stories were written, but somehow Ring Crosby is able to recreate something of its atmosphere. The music, written by David Reifer for harmonica, banjo, guitar and mandolin, helps to evoke the spirit of the period. The mouth-organ is played by Tommy Ralley, and his impeccable performances are a pleasure to hear. It is a pity, however, that the music is imperfectly integrated with the text.

Some of the stories have extra

pace and local colour, with discreet sound effects, varying from distant carts rattling down a road to the sounds of bacon frying in an open pan. Ring Crosby's reading is excellent.

The first couple of stories, in which Tom escapes from Aunt Polly, are read rather fast and require careful listening to catch all the words. As the stories continue the pace seems to relax. Despite this minor quibble, this is an excellent record and could be a useful addition to the school record collection. It is the most wonderful of the children's stories ever written and from the pen of A. A. Milne and Winnie the Pooh appeared first in 1926, and his adventures have since been translated into many languages, including Japanese and Bulgarian.

The stories are read with understanding and sincerity by Norman Shelley who, in 1939, created Winnie the Pooh for the BBC in Children's Hour.

The readings are delightful, thoroughly English in the best possible way. Pooh sounds happily muddling his way through each adventure. The carefree little piano pieces are just right, as indeed are Pooh's hums, which Norman Shelley performs with panache. This is a clear recording of classic children's literature and can be highly recommended.

17

Ideas, argument, experiences, research



Harrogate schools combine their sixth forms/ Minority language use in Switzerland

Augmented sixth

K. R. Stott

L. M. Gannon

In Harrogate, North Yorkshire, a new sixth form is developing at two voluntary aided denominational schools. St Aidan's C of E High School (seven-form entry with 1,130 pupils) and St John Fisher RC High School (five-form entry with 580 pupils) will have, by 1978, 350 sixth year pupils considering going into a common sixth form.

St Aidan's opened in new buildings as an 11 to 16 secondary school in 1968, and three years later St John Fisher, a much smaller school, moved into the former convent school premises a few hundred yards away. At the same time plans for secondary reorganization in Harrogate were being made. It was realized that it would be wise to have one common sixth form, as there would be no justification for two close together. In any case, the prospect of an association be-

tween an RC and a C of E school presented an exciting educational and ecumenical challenge and an opportunity not to be missed.

The governors of both schools agreed and the West Riding of Yorkshire Authority was in favour. The first sixth-formers were accepted in September, 1973, at the same time as the first fully comprehensive intake, RSLA and the expansion of both schools. Six months later Harrogate became part of North Yorkshire with a new local authority committed to support the venture.

During the early planning stages, and after each meeting, the two heads wrote a summary of the latest developments and any differences of view or interpretation were examined in detail. Responsibility for the sixth form is now taken by the director of sixth-form studies, a joint appointment. He acts as coordinator, with increasing responsibility for curriculum development, timetabling, discipline, higher education, and finance.

The director meets the two heads weekly; a committee of senior staff and a consultative committee of heads of department meet periodically; and occasionally the whole staff of both schools confer. Such a system, involving everyone, is essential for smooth organization and decision-making.

There is no separate sixth-form

unit and all sixth-formers are full members of their own school. They worship, register, eat, lead house and social activities in their own school. On the other hand, all sixth-formers use both schools—common rooms, library, sports hall—and join in games, fell walking, drama, debating and acts of worship.

The common sixth form has an impact on the two schools. There must be common school holiday periods, timing of the eight-period day, synchronization of clocks, coordination of sixth-form timetables, internal examinations, movement of staff and sixth-formers. However, the traditions, policies and curriculum in the two schools are quite different and will remain so.

In 1975/76 there were 130 sixth-formers (100 from St Aidan's) and 46 in the upper sixth preparing for A level. Academically there is a wide choice of courses with 15 A level subjects and 17 for the certificate of Extended Education. Students can study A levels with CEE subjects. At present 56 sixth-formers are taking the full A levels in three subjects, 46 a mixture of A level and CEE and 29 are following one CEE course in five subjects. There is specialization in science, the humanities, technical subjects or a mixture of each. In 1974 and 1975 every sixth-former was able to follow the course of his or her choice. Most A levels are taken

with the Joint Matriculation Board and the CEE (pilot scheme) is with the West Yorkshire and Lindsey Regional Examining Board.

Staffing is based on the size of the schools, about two thirds from St Aidan's and one third from St John Fisher. In general, sixth-formers are taught by teachers in their own school. The two heads of department are equally responsible for courses, syllabuses and policy in their own field, and there are regular joint departmental meetings. The director and sixth-form tutors coordinate the programmes in community service, general studies, careers advice and private study.

The L.E.A. made initial grants for equipping the senior science laboratories. In the first year double capitalization for sixth-formers was allowed and the special library grant was divided between the two schools. Everything is requisitioned through the St Aidan's office, the sixth form is separately coded, and towards the end of the financial year St John Fisher requests the transfer to St Aidan's of an appropriate sum, based on the ratio of sixth-formers as a proportion of the total expenditure. All special grants are also handled through St Aidan's.

When two schools work together in this way there are special problems and some of the small, basic ones are the most difficult to solve. Different traditions in school holi-

day periods, uniform, lunch times and length of lessons often mean compromise. The major problems of staffing, timetable coordination, standards of work and discipline can be overcome by patience, goodwill, and determination.

Both schools have building programmes. At St Aidan's the new development—most of it for sixth form use—will be available in September, and St John Fisher's two-year building programme should be ready in 1978. In that year the fully comprehensive intake in both schools will reach the lower sixth form and by the next year there may be over 300 sixth-formers. They will all benefit from the rich resources of two schools and the experience of more than 100 highly qualified staff, able to offer a wide choice of subjects and courses.

This arrangement, therefore, offers the advantages of a large sixth form in two average-sized comprehensive schools. It is more economical than two separate, smaller sixth forms, and after only two years an academic, social and ecumenical tradition is being established. The future offers an exciting challenge.

K. R. Stott is head of St Aidan's C of E High School, L. M. Gannon is head of St John Fisher RC High School, Harrogate.

Preserving Rumantsch

Joan Pargeler

The high mountainous region of the Gräubünden is generally known as the playground of the world's rich tourists. It is also the heart of the Rumantsch-speaking part of Switzerland. When in 1938 Rumantsch (Rumanisch) was proclaimed the fourth language of that country, this was not in itself enough to ensure either the continued use of the language or the life of the culture centred on it.

The Lla Rumantscha, with its theatre in Chur (Graubünden/Grisons), has been active in recent decades both as a publishing-house and as a promoter of the teaching and use of Rumantsch. In the schools of the "Terra Grischuna" this task is made easier in Switzerland than it would be for a minority language-group in Britain, for example, since the Swiss, through their local voting procedures and referendum exercise a more direct control over issues which affect them immediately.

Rumantsch, belonging to the Romance group of languages, has affinities to Italian, as it too came in the main from Latin, the basis of a large Roman colony founded in the last year BC in what was then known as Raetia. Rumantsch descendants, cut off by the nature of the terrain from any vote in districts where perhaps only 20 per cent of the population speak Rumantsch, and more than twice the percentage speak German at home, will often receive a demand for Rumantsch-based instruction at primary level.

Gräubünden southwards into Italy and north-west as far as Augsburg.

Rumantsch also has a sub-stratum of Celtic, a relic of earlier inhabitants of the region, who in pre-Roman days lived between the Rhenus and Gotthard passes and the lakes of Konstanz and Comé.

In the countryside there are still here and there relics of the old druidical culture to be found: in Scuol, for example, where every February a bale of straw as high as a house is set up and burnt. Some of the customs of the Roman settlers have remained with their descendants in Terra Grischuna: there are villages where children still celebrate in spring the coming of the old Roman New Year by dressing in local costume and processing with flowers round the springs and wells.

Gräubünden is the most extensive canton of Switzerland. It is not occupied entirely by Rumantsch-speaking people. In the south there is an admixture of Italian-speaking inhabitants, while in the rest of Gräubünden German is widely used.

There have been Germanic-speaking people in the area from the fifth century onwards, a fact which has had a constant influence on the vocabulary of Rumantsch, although in structure it remains a non-Latin language. Today many German-speaking Swiss live there, and German is, in any case, the first official language of the country.

In Gräubünden the primary school education, which lasts for six years, is either given in Rumantsch or German as a compulsory subject from the fourth year of school, or it is given in German and Rumantsch is learnt as a second language. While 86 of the 220 "Gemeinden" that make up the canton show a majority of Rumantsch-speakers in the population — and there, naturally, Rumantsch is the medium of instruction in the primary schools — a vote in districts where perhaps only 20 per cent of the population speak Rumantsch, and more than twice the percentage speak German at home, will often receive a demand for Rumantsch-based instruction at primary level.

It is possible to study Rumantsch as a recognised subject at the Swiss universities of Zürich, Fribourg, Bern and Geneva, for it is taught in the secondary schools of the cantons as a "foreign" language. Students training to be teachers in the cantons are encouraged to study the language and its culture in depth, so as to be able to improve the teaching of Rumantsch at secondary level in the schools.

There is an institute for research

into Rumantsch at Chur, and, despite the few hours a week accorded to the language on radio and television, adults are showing an increased interest in following courses in Rumantsch designed for them in further education. In some cases such courses for grown-ups have helped people in the region to feel that they belonged there and to decide to stay, instead of "emigrating" to another part of Switzerland, so strengthening the body of inhabitants with a conscious knowledge of their cultural heritage.

The voting system enables the Swiss of the Terra Grischuna to

see that decisions are taken locally which suit their culture and the life they wish their children to have. Although there are dissatisfactions, on the whole the inhabitants of the canton are content to be in the Swiss Confederation, free to keep a large measure of particularism without the desire for political secession or a drive to return to the days of disruptive tribalism.

Joan Pargeler is visiting lecturer in modern languages and complementary studies at the University of Aston.



From "How to Make Electronic Music".

Geology journal

The Journal of the Association of Teachers of Geology. Volume one, number two, contains "resources reports", book reviews and articles on the geological curricula group and the interpretation of textures in igneous rocks. There are also pieces on the simulation of igneous textures, crystal models and a work shop on teaching palaeontology.

This is the second issue of the new quarterly and is free to members of the association. The next one will contain items on the Wall-sall geology teachers working party, resource-based geology teaching, examination development and consultation procedures at A level and the teaching of palaeontology.

Crafts courses

Two special courses for crafts teachers and others are being arranged by the Cement and Concrete Association for the next academic year. During a week's work participants will acquire a basic knowledge of the materials, methods of making and ideas for surface finishing. Theory is to be mixed with practice.

There will be seminars to discuss the organizational implications for schools wishing to introduce concrete craft and a session on careers advice for school-leavers. The courses will be held at Fulmer Grange, the Cement and Concrete Association's training centre, from September 26 to October 1 and from April 17 to 22. Further details from the centre: Fulmer Grange, Fulmer, near Slough, Berkshire.

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